

# CARTSNEWS

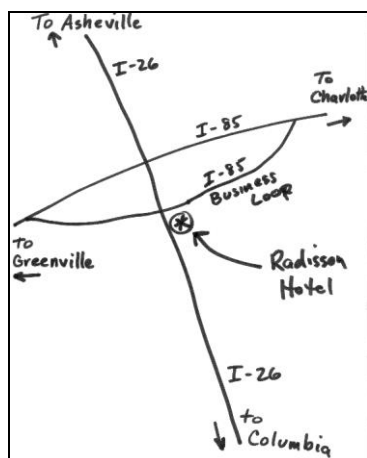
*The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society*

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Before you forget, mark your calendar for **November 11**. That's the date of the next CARTS meeting. The meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Spartanburg, SC. True, it's only three months off but I find I now need only about three hours to forget most anything. And to be sure you don't want to forget a CARTS meeting. We'll start at 9:00 and go until 1:00. Then we'll adjourn for lunch, over which there are always tales of great finds, those that got away, etc. You'll want to join us. From each and every meeting I go home with several really nice Carolina tokens. You can too! A map is shown below; detailed directions to the meeting hotel are located elsewhere in this issue.



Note that the mailing address for our treasurer, Bob King, has changed. The correct address is given under "contact information" just to the right. Make the change in your address books. And finally, here goes the editorial plea again. Your club needs your input. Write up an article – if you want to send in something rough I'll be happy to do my best at "smoothing" it out. Or, send in copy for a free ad – such a deal! Or, let the rest of us know about that terrific find you made.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**G**reetings to all CARTS members! I hope you have been able to keep your cool during the dog days of this summer. I've been staying inside mostly and haven't been doing too much rummaging at the local flea markets and antique malls. So I may have missed a couple of the few-and-far-between goodies that get offered so seldom these days. I have been able to add a few tokens to my collection, however. Check out the "New Finds" section for a couple of lumber items I recently picked up. Our fall meeting is coming up soon (November 11th) and the details are printed elsewhere in this issue. I hope everyone can make it to the meeting in Spartanburg! See you then.

Regards,

Tony Chibbaro, President of CARTS

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know! **Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!**

# The City of Charleston Free Badge

**Tony Chibbaro**  
(CM #2)

Many exnumia collectors are familiar with the Charleston Slave-For-Hire Badges. Commonly called "slave tags," they were issued annually from 1800 to 1865 by the city of Charleston in an attempt to regulate the practice of slaves being hired out by their masters. Only a knowledgeable few, however, are aware of their earlier "cousins," the City of Charleston Free Badges. This is not surprising due to the relative rarity of the latter. Surviving slave tags probably number between one and two thousand, with new ones coming out of the ground on a regular basis. But the number of known free badges can be counted on six fingers and the discovery of a new specimen is a noteworthy event.

The City of Charleston Free Badges, sometimes referred to as Free Black Tags or Freedmen's Badges, are thought to have been made in the last months of 1783 or early in 1784. In November of 1783, a city ordinance was passed which stated that "every free negro, mulatto, or mestizo, above the age of fifteen years, shall be obliged to obtain a badge from the Corporation of the City, for which badge every person shall pay into the City Treasury the sum of Five Shillings, and shall wear it suspended by a string or ribband, and exposed to view on his breast." The penalty for not adhering to the law was a fine of three pounds, and if not paid within 10 days the violator could be sentenced to the workhouse (jail) and hard labor for up to 30 days.

The same law which required free persons of color to obtain and wear the free badges also attempted to regulate the practice of hiring out slaves. It set up fees for "tickets or badges" for hired slaves, as well as fines for those owners hiring out un-ticketed slaves and those who employed them. No slave tags exist with dates earlier than 1800 and it is thought that perhaps paper tickets were used prior to that date instead of the usual brass badges which were instituted in 1800.

In 1789, the law requiring tickets for slave hiring and badges for free persons of color was abolished, and was not to be replaced until 11 years later (in 1800) with a new law governing only slave hiring practices. There was no mention of badges for free blacks in the 1800 ordinance, nor was there in any subsequent ordinances or regulations. Therefore, the time period in which free persons of color were required to wear badges lasted only six years, from November of 1783 until 1789. All existing free badges are undated and there was no

wording in the 1783 ordinance calling for annual renewal, so apparently once the badges were issued, they were good "in perpetuity" or at least until the law was repealed. These two facts - the short-lived nature of the ordinance calling for the badges themselves and the fact that they did not need to be renewed annually - may account for the relative rarity of the free badges. Additionally, there were less than 600 free blacks living in Charleston in 1790 (U.S. Census figures) and many of that number were undoubtedly children younger than 15 years of age and were not subject to the ordinance.

There is no mention in the 1783 ordinance as to what entity was to manufacture the free badges and no evidence has turned up in any official source as to the identity of the manufacturer. It is possible that they were made by a local silversmith or goldsmith, as the later slave tags were. (Slave tags from the early 1800s often had the manufacturer's name on them.) However, the style of the free badges differs significantly from the later slave tags.



All known genuine free badges were die struck in relief on oval copper planchets (or in one case a silver planchet) measuring 36 x 42mm by use of a single obverse die. A Phrygian cap (liberty cap) on a pole is the central device of the obverse, with the word "FREE" appearing on the lower edge of the cap. A banner or semi-circular cartouche appears just inside a denticulated border and runs from 2 o'clock to 10 o'clock, with the words "CITY OF CHARLESTON" running in a counter-clockwise direction. Script letters "No" with two periods below the "o" were hand-engraved onto each planchet immediately to the left of the pole. To the right of the pole were added serial numbers (or in one case a serial letter) in one of two manners. Four of the six known badges have hand-engraved serial numbers (or letter), mostly done by a less-practiced hand than the engraving to the left of the pole. The remaining two badges have three-digit serial numbers that have been punched with single numeral punches. With the exception of the one silver badge, the crudeness of the serial numbers/letter suggests that they were added after striking by an agent or agents not

in the employ of the original manufacturer. Four of the six known badges are holed at 12 o'clock. All six badges are uniface with a blank reverse, and several of the badges show a "pressure void" on the reverse opposite the cap which was created by the force of striking. The die used for the free badge was entirely hand cut. All devices and lettering show signs of hand-cutting, no letter punches were used to engrave the die. Two of the six specimens presently known reside in museums - one in the American Numismatic Society collection (serial number 33) and one in the Charleston Museum (serial number 156). The remaining four are in private hands. Illustrated above is one of those four in private hands. I was lucky enough to purchase this specimen (serial letter U) from a Texas dealer in 2001 for a nominal sum. Other specimens in private hands include the Garrett specimen (serial number 341) sold by Johns Hopkins University in a Bowers & Ruddy auction in 1981. There exists one specimen in silver (serial number 307) which resides in a Low Country collection. Also in existence is a recently unearthed specimen (serial number 259) which appeared in an Early American History auction in February of 2006. Its condition leaves much to be desired, but it was offered at an opening bid of \$25,000. I do not believe that it sold.

## New Finds from South Carolina

**Tony Chibbaro**  
(CM #2)



**Varn / Brothers / Co. / Smoaks, S.C. // Good For / 100 / In Merchandise – R, Al, 35mm**

I was fortunate enough in June to win from an eBay auction the aluminum Varn Brothers Co. token from Smoaks, S.C. shown below. I won the token quite cheaply (around \$15) due to the fact that the seller had placed the token in a category in which most token collectors do not normally look. The \$15 price tag is especially noteworthy because the company is listed in

Trantow's lumber token book. A 10 cent specimen, listed as Trantow SC890A10, is given a rarity rating of R10 in that reference work. This 10 cent specimen (which is dug and somewhat corroded and resides in my collection), was previously the only known token from this company. So I was naturally happy to win the unlisted \$1.00 denomination in nice condition for as cheaply as I did. The pictured token is made of aluminum and measures 35mm.



The seller of the Varn Brothers token had also listed three other South Carolina tokens, which I also won very inexpensively, so I thought it prudent to give him a phone call and ask him if he had other tokens for sale. Fortunately he replied "yes," and I made arrangements to drive to his home and meet him in person. The next day I made the 50 mile trip to his house and he promptly presented me with the tokens I won from him on eBay along with several other items. A few were inexpensive bus tokens and a tax token or two, but there was one item which immediately got my attention. It was a cardboard token, (sometimes called a "chit"), also issued by one of the Varn Brothers that issued the Smoaks token above. This one is made from green cardboard with black printing and measures 46 x 65mm. I think that it is interesting that the reverse of the token has a "Varn Bros Co" countersignature in handwritten script. The issuer of the chit was William Henry Varn who may have been in business by himself before going into business as a partner in the Varn Brothers Company. The Varn Brothers were active as early as 1906 in the nearby town of Moselle. The Smoaks branch was opened circa 1911 and later became the only branch. The company sold general merchandise, fertilizer, and automobiles and also was involved in the production of turpentine, crossties, staves, and hardwood. In 1933 the business became known as Varn's Cash Store, and in 1945 was operated by Alexina S. Varn, the wife or, more likely, widow, of W.H. Varn.

## Chapel Hill(s)

**Don Bailey**  
(CM #21)

I recently purchased the token shown below on eBay. I am delighted to have the token as I believe it to be rare.



But for some reason there was almost no other bidder. According to Bradstreet listings, the Andrews Cash Store Co. was in business from 1912 through 1923.



**Andrews Cash / Store / Co. / Chapel Hill, / N. C. / wright //**  
**Good For / 10 / In / Merchandise Only – R, Br, 23mm.**

As I was entering my new purchase in my NC token data base, I thought I remembered having a token from another Chapel Hill. Sure enough, after a while I found the token shown below from Chappell Hill, Texas. (OK, so it's not exactly Chapel Hill, but close.)



**Jake Winfield / General / Merchandise / Chappell Hill, Texas //**  
**Good For / 50¢ / In / Merchandise – R, Al, 32mm**

This of course sent me to Mapquest where I found no less than 10 Chapel Hill's. Namely, Chapel Hill, NC, Chapel Hill, TN, five different towns named Chapel Hill in Alabama, two in Arkansas, and one in Kentucky. And, along with Chappell Hill, TX there is Chapell Hill, NY.

Why so many Chapel Hill's in Alabama? My guess would be that the towns were named in the obvious way, that is for the location of a church. And to be sure, Alabama is the buckle on the "Bible Belt". If my guess is correct, it also serves to explain why only one Chapel Hill – or two depending on how you view Kentucky – is not in the South.

It turns out that there is one token known from Chapel Hill, TN. But my Alabama book lists no tokens from any of the Chapel Hill's in that state. Likewise my Arkansas catalog lists no Chapel Hill tokens from

Arkansas. If anyone knows about the existence, or non-existence, of tokens from Chapel Hill, KY or Chapel Hill, NY I would like to hear from them. Also, my Alabama and Arkansas catalogs are rather old. Are there tokens from Chapel Hill in either or both those states?

## A New North Carolina Find

**Bob King**  
(CM #31)



**THE CASWELL TRAINING SCHOOL / KINSTON, / N.C. / (DIA) //**  
**GOOD FOR / 5¢ / IN TRADE - RD AL 20**

The Caswell Training School was founded in 1911 with the name "North Carolina School For The Feeble-minded". The first admissions were made in 1914. The name was changed as shown on the token in 1915 and remained the same until it was changed again in 1963 to The Caswell Center. It continues today as a school for individuals with mental retardation who reside in the Eastern Region of the North Carolina Division of Mental Health.

## AN INTERESTING NORTH CAROLINA TOKEN FROM A GHOST TOWN.

**Bob King (CM #31)**



WILSON CREEK QUARRY CO. / HUTBUR, / N.C. /  
(STAR) // **GOOD FOR / 100 / IN MERCHANDISE - SC**  
(?) **BR**

WILSON CREEK QUARRY CO. / HUTBUR, / N.C. /  
(STAR) // **GOOD FOR / 50 / IN MERCHANDISE - RD BR**  
**33**

WILSON CREEK QUARRY CO. / HUTBUR, / N.C. /  
(STAR) // **GOOD FOR / 25 / IN MERCHANDISE - OCT**  
**BR**

lumber operation in the Hutbur, Mortimer and Edgemont area of Caldwell County. Hutbur isn't listed on most modern maps, but was located approximately 2 miles south of Mortimer on Wilson Creek in Caldwell County.

Wilson Creek Quarry is listed in Mortimer in 1923 and 1924. Granite was mined and crushed to make automobile roadbeds and railroad beds.

The name Hutbur is derived from Hutton-Bourbonnais and Company. Hutton-Bourbonnais owned a large

## Directions to CARTS Meeting

**Place:** Tulipa Room, Radisson Hotel, 9027 Fairforest Road, Spartanburg, SC 29301

**Time:** 9AM to 1PM, Saturday, November 11, 2006

### Driving Directions:

#### From **Columbia:**

1. Take I-26 West toward Spartanburg
2. Take exit 19-B onto I-85 Business Loop North toward Spartanburg, go 0.3 miles
3. Take exit 2-C
4. Turn right onto Fairforest Rd., go 0.2 miles
5. Turn right again as soon as you pass the Cracker Barrel parking lot, follow driveway approximately one tenth of a mile into the Radisson parking lot.

#### From **Asheville:**

1. Take I-26 East toward Spartanburg
2. Take exit 19-B onto I-85 Business Loop North toward Spartanburg, go 0.5 miles
3. Take exit 2-C
4. Turn right onto Fairforest Rd., go 0.2 miles
5. Turn right again as soon as you pass the Cracker Barrel parking lot, follow driveway approximately one tenth of a mile into the Radisson parking lot.

#### From **Greenville:**

1. Take I-85 North toward Spartanburg
2. Take exit 69 onto I-85 Business Loop North toward Spartanburg, go 2.1 miles
3. Take exit 2-C
4. Turn right onto Fairforest Rd., go 0.2 miles
5. Turn right again as soon as you pass the Cracker Barrel parking lot, follow driveway approximately one tenth of a mile into the Radisson parking lot.

#### From **Charlotte:**

1. Take I-85 South toward Spartanburg
2. Take exit 77 onto I-85 Business Loop South toward Spartanburg, go 6.1 miles
3. Take exit 2-C
4. Turn left onto Fairforest Rd., go 0.4 miles
5. Turn right as soon as you pass the Cracker Barrel parking lot, follow driveway approximately one tenth of a mile into the Radisson parking lot.

# CLASSIFIED ADS

## FOR SALE

**BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND COFFEE TOKENS**--19th century GVF. Charles Hadduck of Ashted Row. Or J.H. Stokes of Navigation St. Will sell either for \$12. but want to keep one. I seek to buy or trade metal coffee tokens world-wide. Lamar Bland [blendl@elon.edu](mailto:blendl@elon.edu) or 919-383-6514

## WANTED

**WANTED: RARE SOUTH CAROLINA TRADE TOKENS FOR MY COLLECTION.** I have trading material from most states. Check out my website at: [www.angelfire.com/sc/sctokens](http://www.angelfire.com/sc/sctokens). Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127 (803-252-1881) [chibbaro@mindspring.com](mailto:chibbaro@mindspring.com)

**RARE MINING TOKENS AND PAPER SCRIP WANTED:** coal, iron, silver, gold, phosphate, etc. I have lots of rare tokens from the Carolinas to trade, or will pay top dollar for anything I need. David Schenkman, PO Box 366, Bryantown, MD 20617. Email: [dave@turtlehillbanjo.com](mailto:dave@turtlehillbanjo.com)

**PEANUT TOKENS:** I will pay top dollar for tokens I need from National Spanish Peanut Co, Columbian Peanut Company, Franklin Peanut Company, Tom's, and others. Don Bailey, PO Box 1272, Etowah, NC 28729 or [ELADON@BRINET.COM](mailto:ELADON@BRINET.COM).

**TOP DOLLAR PAID FOR SOUTHERN STATES TOKENS.** The opportunity to buy one or a collection is always appreciated. Bob King, 709 Cardinal Dr., Brevard, NC 28712-4227 [tokenaddict@citcom.net](mailto:tokenaddict@citcom.net) 828-883-8028 (Notice my new street number)

**ARTICLES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, NEW FIND ANNOUNCEMENTS, CLASSIFIED AND/OR PAID ADS.** Only you can make your club better. Send them in to your editor!

**CARTS Membership and Dues:** Membership in CARTS is open to anyone interested in the exonomia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

**CARTSNEWS:** CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

**Advertising:** Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected.

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.